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ABORTION LAWS
TORY MP WANTS RIGHTS FOR UNBORN BABIES {page 8}

STALE DRESSING
DO KIM'S OUTFITS FALL FLAT? {page 37}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, December 22, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Mistletoe. Magic

▶ Justin Bieber performs songs from his hit album Under The Mistletoe at Massey Hall in Toronto on Wednesday night. All proceeds from the concert will benefit Justin's BELIEVE charity drive.

MUCHMUSIC/GEORGE PIMENTEL FOR WIREIMAGE

The Biebs brings it home for the holidays

Justin is in town for the taping of his exclusive Canadian special, MuchMusic Presents Justin Bieber: Home for the Holidays, premiering Thursday at 6 p.m. on Much and 7:30 p.m. on CTV.

Doctor in lipo death penalized

Botched surgery shone a light on the wild west of unregulated medicine in Ontario

When Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar performed surgery on Krista Stryland in 2007, she could call herself a cosmetic surgeon — despite the fact that there is no such recognized medical specialty and that she was not even a surgeon.

Ontario has come a long way in protecting the public from such unqualified doctors, but it took the death of Stryland to get there, critics charge.

"It's shocking that we didn't have it before," said Dr. Frank Lista, past president of the Canadian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

He made the comments Wednesday after Yazdanfar was stripped of her medical licence for two years. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario also ruled that Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar can no longer perform surgery herself, but could only assist in surgeries in a hospital setting.

Stryland, a 32-year-old mother and real estate agent, lost an excessive amount of blood and lay in the recovery room for up to 30 minutes before 911 was called. Paramedics found her lying in a pool of blood with no vital signs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Before the new rules

- Family doctors could describe themselves as cosmetic surgeons, even though they had no surgical designations.
- The unsuspecting public often never recognized the difference between plastic and cosmetic surgeons, the latter of which typically offered cheaper services.

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Caregiver accused in sex assault

Elderly victim, afflicted by Alzheimer's, 'was in a vulnerable position': Police Suspect has worked at care facility for 7 years

A caregiver has been charged with sexual assault after an attack on an 88-year-old Alzheimer's patient, Toronto police said Wednesday morning.

The female victim was assaulted in a washroom at the Kensington Long-Term Care Centre. An employee walked in as the assault was taking place and called police.

"This suspect was in a position of power," said Const. Tony Vella.

James Stewart Brown, 57, was arrested Tuesday.

He was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday. He was remanded in custody until his next court appearance on Friday.

The long-care home centre has suspended the accused, who is not known to have a criminal record.

Police are still trying to put together a work history of the accused. He is believed to be single with no dependents.

Police say the health-care centre has been cooperating fully with the investigation.

A spokesperson for the care facility could not be reached for comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More victims?

- Investigators believe there may be other victims, and are urging anyone with information to contact them at 416-809-1400.

VICTOR BIRO PHOTO

▶ James Stewart Brown, 57, has been charged after an alleged sexual assault on an 88-year-old Alzheimer's patient at the Kensington Long-Term Care Centre.

Mother of missing infant facing charges

As the search continues for the body of George Doodhnaught, the infant's mother was arrested Wednesday and charged in his disappearance, including causing indignity to a dead body.

Nadia Ayyad, 23, was also charged with failing to provide the necessities of life, obstructing police and abduction in contravention of a custody order, pertaining to the infant's older brother.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ George Doodhnaught

The child's father, 31-year-old Ricky Ray Doodhnaught of Woodbridge, was arrested earlier this month in the disappearance and is expected to face further charges, including causing indignity to a dead body, when he appears in court Dec. 30.

"The investigation to date has led us to believe that George is no longer with us," said York Region Det.-Sgt. John Braybrook.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

Halton blamed for icy crash

APPEAL COURT. Just as winter arrived Wednesday, Ontario municipalities were sent a message that it may not be enough to simply salt an icy road. They must take steps to prevent ice from forming in the first place — or risk serious legal and financial consequences.

In a 3-0 decision, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a judgment that found Halton Region and the Town of Milton at fault for an April 1, 2003, accident that seriously injured Milton resident Patrizia Giuliani on an icy stretch of Derry Road.

Snow began falling around 4 a.m. that morning and, by the time Giuliani set out for work at 7 a.m., the road had become icy from traffic compacting the snow. Giuliani lost control of her car and collided with an oncoming vehicle.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in 'Is Santa Real?' Google searches. Scan code for story.

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Reward doubled for 'Vaulter Bandit'

Canadian Bankers Association offers $20,000 reward for information leading to robber's arrest and conviction

A reward has been doubled for the so-called "Vaulter Bandit" after he attacked a bank employee in a robbery attempt this month.

The bandit, known to jump counters while robbing banks, is being sought in 17 bank robberies across Canada since his first job on Feb. 3, 2010.

He has never struck in downtown Toronto, which is puzzling for police, but has committed robberies in Hamilton, York Region, Ottawa and Calgary.

In the past year, he has begun what police refer to as "takeover" robberies, in which he accosts a bank employee while they are opening the bank for business. He was successful in this method in Ottawa earlier this year, but has been foiled in two other attempts.

TORONTO POLICE HANDOUT

▶ A screen grab of suspect.

The latest attempt occurred at 6:45 a.m. on Dec. 14 at the TD Canada Trust branch at 5100 Rutherford Rd. in Vaughan. Police say the bandit was at the ATM when an employee arrived to open the door.

He jumped at her and knocked her to the ground while trying to enter the bank. However, he fled after a female employee inside came to the door and kicked him in the stomach.

Investigators are concerned by the robber's escalation in tactics.

"This is a personal crime, it's not an economic crime," Bill Crate, head of the Canadian Bankers Association, told reporters Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gingerbread. Home

▶ Raising the rooftop: Metro Toronto staff, from left, Maria Luciano, Laila Hakim, Fernando Carneiro and Nicole Druken, Bonnie Shepherd with UNICEF Canada, Anne Skelding, Cheryl Stargratt (BD) and Stargratt's daughter, Shaolin Stargratt-Sweeney.

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Metro's house wins UNICEF challenge

Metro Toronto's 'Metro lights up the world' tent received the most Facebook-user votes in the 'Survival Gifts' Gingerbread tent challenge. Nine media outlets participated in the contest. Its corporate sponsor, BD, will donate a real UNICEF tent to a community in Metro's name.

Foster-to-adopt parent OK'd for EI parental leave

Ottawa is allowing working parents participating in a pioneering Ontario foster-to-adopt program to qualify for parental leave.

The change comes in the wake of a Toronto Star story last summer about the Children's Aid Society in St. Thomas, Ont., which is working to ensure every child who is removed from a neglectful or abusive home is moved only once.

Under the agency's "foster-to-adopt" program, if the child can't go back home and becomes a Crown ward, the foster parents automatically become the adoptive family.

The approach is aimed at stopping the harmful practice whereby vulnerable children bounce through numerous foster homes while child welfare officials determine whether it is safe for them to return home. And it aims to ensure every child who becomes a Crown ward ends up in a permanent family.

Many foster-to-adopt families have two parents in the workplace and when infants are placed in their homes, parental benefits have never been denied, said Dawn Flegel, director of services for Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin County, which serves the community of about 70,000.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Mike and Jolean Anderson took in Carter and an infant girl through foster-to-adopt.

But those benefits were called into question last summer when Jolean and Mike Anderson began the foster-to-adopt process for a second time with a baby girl, named June.

Jolean, who had taken parental leave a year earlier when the couple adopted their son, Carter, was shocked when her second leave was rejected.

No other eligible parent has been denied parental leave benefits since then, Flegel said this week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leave claim

- EI officials denied the nine-month parental leave claim because they said her foster baby wasn't legally available for adoption.
- If the EI decision was allowed to stand, it would have had huge implications for the agency's foster-to-adopt model, said Flegel, who helped the couple launch an appeal in August.
- In September, Flegel was advised Ottawa had changed its interpretation of the legislation.

Dungeon found in abandoned house

There is a dark secret in Pickering, a secret the police don't want to talk about. Someone, maybe several people, recently built a dungeon in an abandoned, 136-year-old farmhouse.

No one is missing and there is no evidence of a crime — besides trespassing. The house is hidden behind a long, tree-lined lane, nestled in a woodlot between a cropped cornfield and a gurgling creek.

The room, in the few details police have revealed, is secured by a heavy door with several locks, designed to trap someone inside.

But the police don't want to describe it for fear of compromising their investigation into a crime that may not have occurred.

Abandoned houses are targets for mischief. "The more buildings they take out, the more isolated the ones that are left become, and therefore the more vulnerable they become..." said John Sabean, president of the Pickering Township Historical Society." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LIAM CASEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ The abandoned farmhouse.

Pedestrian run over by school bus

A 27-year-old woman died Wednesday morning after a school bus struck her as she crossed the street.

She was crossing Jane Street around 7 a.m. on a green light when a school bus, which was traveling in the same direction, turned left from Driftwood Avenue, and struck her, police said.

The collision catapulted the woman forward and the bus ran over her before stopping.

Charges are pending against the female school bus driver.

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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Liberal Leader Bob Rae

Grits look to drum up support

Liberals want fundraising operation similar to sophisticated operation of the Conservatives

The Liberal party wants to set up a new, $2.5 million "national call centre" to drum up money and new members before the next election.

It's one of the bigger-ticket items that rank-and-file Liberals will be asked to approve when they hold their convention in Ottawa in January — and a blunt acknowledgement of the party's chief liability against Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

So the members of the Liberal party's national executive want to hire a chief revenue officer and professional fundraising staff,

The party, fighting for survival, has recognized that it needs money, first and foremost, to wage serious battle against the Conservatives in the next election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Drunk Christmas with Ryan Gosling

The Funnyordie.com folks have done it again, using its Drunk History series to offer a delectable take on 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

The basic premise of this series is to get an inebriated person to offer his or her take on a historical event, or in this case, the classic holiday tale.

What makes it gold is that whatever is being described is acted out, often by very well-known actors.

See the video

▶ There is some salty language. Go to Metronews.ca/video to see the video.

In this case, Canadians Ryan Gosling and Jim Carrey along with Eva Mendes join in on the warped fun.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes in a screengrab from the video.

News in brief

York transit strike talks resume

There is some movement in a nine-week-old transit strike in York Region.

ATU local 113 says it will consider a new proposal received late Tuesday from Veolia Transport to end the strike of its 220 workers.

Local 113 president Bob Kinnear says the bargaining committee will look at the offer and decide whether to respond with a counter proposal or take it directly to the union membership.

Meantime, talks were slated to resume today between ATU local 1587 and Miller Transit and First Canada.

Union representatives say the return to the bargaining table comes because the employers expressed a desire, and it has nothing to do with a court threat.

The municipality of York Region filed an injunction this week against striking transit workers, asking the court to prevent "illegal blockades and unreasonable delays."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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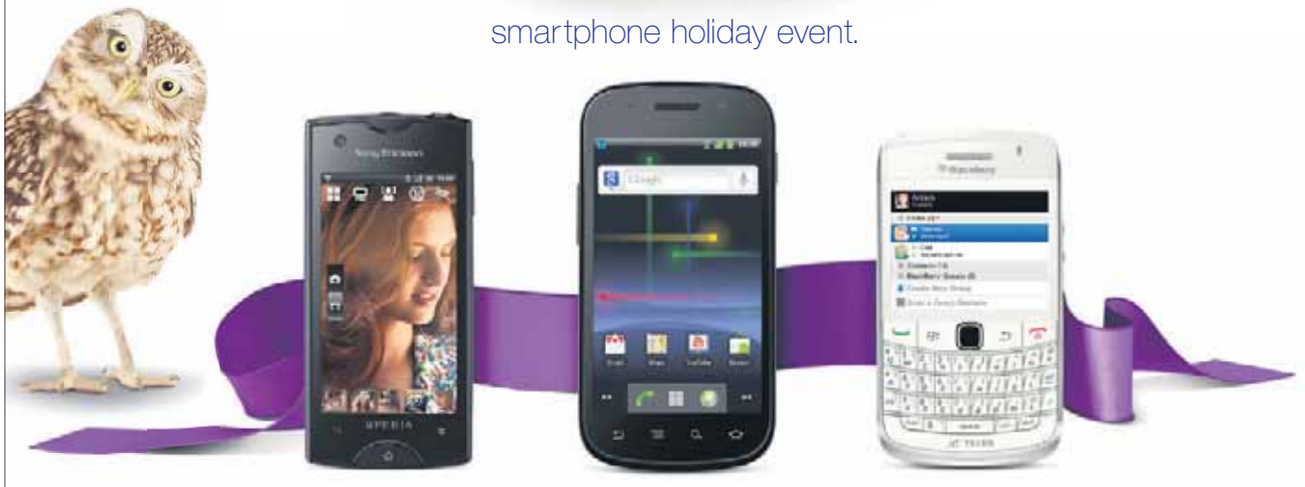

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ELECTRO-MOTIVE PLANT

Union calling for Cat probe

Canada's largest private sector union is calling on Ottawa to review the purchase of Canada's only locomotive manufacturing plant by U.S.-based Caterpillar back in 2010.

The Canadian Auto Workers union says hundreds of jobs at the Electro-Motive plant in London are potentially at stake.

In a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, CAW president Ken Lewenza said the future of the plant is in peril.

"Government inaction and ineffective foreign investment rules could result in the end of more than 60 years of high value-added manufacturing and the loss of 800 good jobs ...." Lewenza said.

CAW Local 27 represents some 650 production and skilled trades workers at the facility.

Caterpillar bought the London plant in June 2010, but within less than a year of the purchase three other locations in the U.S., Mexico and Brazil were slated to build EMD locomotives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province delaying bulb ban

Ontario residents will have an extra two years before they have to switch off all their incandescent light bulbs.

The province is moving to match an earlier decision by the federal government to ban all 100 and 75 watt incandescent bulbs by January 2014.

Forty and 60 watt bulbs will have to be phased out by the end of 2014, and replaced with more energy-efficient alternatives such as LEDs or compact fluorescents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Abortion debate reopens?

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ MP Stephen Woodworth, right, says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

◗ Tory MP wants unborn babies to have human rights ◗ Says law doesn't protect babies until birth

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children, something seen as an attempt to reopen the contentious debate around abortion laws.

"Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Stephen Woodworth, Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, said in a statement emailed to reporters Wednesday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be sub-human while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."

Woodworth doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he gently suggests that it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

"Parliament has a responsibility to lead that examination," he wrote.

It won't likely have the opportunity to do so.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

That came after another backbencher from Saskatchewan, Brad Trost, claimed at a pro-life rally to have helped cut off funding to Planned Parenthood, which provides sexual and reproductive health programs around the world. The pro-choice group ended up being funded under a federal program to improve child and maternal health — though only for work in countries where abortion is illegal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The issue

The Tory position on having a new debate on abortion laws does not appear to have softened since last spring.

- "As our government has always said, we will not open the debate on this issue," Sara MacIntyre, Harper's press secretary, wrote in an email Wednesday.
- Woodworth's interest in the issue of fetal rights is longstanding. In 2009, he presented two petitions to the House of Commons calling on MPs to protect human rights "from the time of conception, fertilization until natural death."
- Issue could be taken up at the House of Commons justice and human rights committee, of which Woodworth is a member and the Conservative party has the majority of members.

Delaying tax cut equals a tax hike: Tory leader

Ontario's minority Liberal government should not "get into bed" with the New Democrats and agree to delay a cut in Ontario's corporate tax rate, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said Wednesday.

The province is scheduled to cut the business tax rate from 11.5 to 10 per cent in 2013, but the NDP want that delayed, saying the government can't afford billions of dollars in tax cuts while it's under a credit watch because of a $16 billion deficit.

Now it looks like the Liberals will postpone the tax cut in exchange for NDP support, said Hudak.

"I talked about this during the campaign, that I expected Dalton McGuinty if we were in a minority government situation, to use the NDP as an excuse to do what he always does," said Hudak.

"After every election campaign, Dalton McGuinty has some excuse and then he raises taxes and ramps up the spending."

Hudak was at the cabinet table when Ontario's last Conservative government delayed tax cuts by one year in 2002 in response to the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

However, he now insists delaying a tax cut amounts to a tax hike, something he warned was absolutely the wrong policy when the province needs more private sector jobs.

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▶ Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak

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Topless activists allege abduction and abuse

Femen members have become popular in Ukraine for staging half-naked protests Three claim they were held and beaten by Belarusian authorities

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Aleksandra Nemchinova, left, Inna Shevchenko and Oksana Shechko, activists of the Women's Movement Femen, speak to media in Kyiv Wednesday.

A group of women from a Ukrainian topless-protest group on Wednesday recounted their ordeal in neighbouring Belarus, where they claimed they were kidnapped, beaten and abused by local security officials.

Oksana Shechko told the Associated Press that she and two fellow activists with Femen were interrogated on a bus for 12 hours, made to undress in the woods in freezing temperatures, punched in the head and back, threatened with death and rape, smeared with paint and had some of their hair cut off.

Shechko charged that the Belarusian authorities were punishing them for a protest in Minsk on Monday in which they bared their breasts to bring attention to President Aleksander Lukashenko's crackdown on the opposition.

"It was a real fight for survival," Shechko said after returning to Kyiv, her voice trembling. "We ended up in the hands of the butchers who kill and terrify the Belarusian people."

Shechko, 24, said that at one point the activists were made to sit still on a bus for several hours, prevented from speaking or moving.

"If we moved our heads or hands, they beat us, it was very painful," Shechko said.

The activists were finally left half-naked in a freezing forest, where they eventually found help from area residents and contacted the Ukrainian embassy.

Activist Inna Shevchenko's hair had been dyed green and some of it cut off in the back.

The three activists' protest took place on the steps of the KGB headquarters and was one of multiple demonstrations against Lukashenko on the first anniversary of his re-election. Agents quickly broke up that demonstration and arrested several journalists and Femen's Australian videographer Kitti Green, Femen said. The group said Green was deported to Lithuania.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hacking was routine at tabloid, journalist says

"Nothing happened at the newspaper without him (Piers Morgan) knowing."

JOURNALIST JAMES HIPWELL

CNN celebrity interviewer Piers Morgan was an extremely hands-on tabloid editor who must have known that phone hacking was rife at his paper, a former employee claimed Wednesday.

Business journalist James Hipwell said voicemail interceptions were an everyday activity at Britain's Daily Mirror tabloid, where Hipwell worked in the late 1990s as a columnist providing stock tips.

Hipwell told a British inquiry into media ethics that while he had no direct evidence that Morgan, the Daily Mirror editor at the time, was involved in phone hacking, he said it was impossible to imagine that Morgan had been kept in the dark.

Morgan denied having any direct connection to phone hacking — although he refused to answer questions about how he came to hear a voicemail message left by Paul McCartney on the phone of his now ex-wife Heather Mills.

Morgan's description of the message in a 2006 article for the Daily Mail led some to wonder whether he'd gotten it through phone hacking. Mills has said there was no way Morgan could have obtained it honestly, and on Wednesday she emphasized that she had "never ever played Piers Morgan a tape of any kind." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook bows to EU rules

Facebook Inc. has agreed to make several changes to its services to improve transparency and better protect the personal data of its millions of users outside of the U.S., following an in-depth audit of its international headquarters that was released Wednesday.

The social media company agreed to changes including reworking its policies of retaining and deleting private data and reducing the amount of information collected about people who are not logged into Facebook.

Facebook's international headquarters are based in Dublin, Ireland, where the company is required to comply with European data privacy laws, which are more stringent than those that apply in the United States. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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More to Korean grief than meets eye

Not all North Koreans are likely to feel genuine remorse Some may even be hoping for change

The scenes of mass grief coming from North Korea — people falling to the ground weeping and cries of anguish amid sombre crowds — look forced.

More than theatrical, the mass mourning over the death of dictator Kim Jong-il is being driven by a mix of forces. Loss and fear of an uncertain future — the same emotions that many feel at the death of a loved one — become contagious in crowds. Added to that are the perils of crossing a police state. Self-interest is at work too, as many North Koreans work for the ruling Workers' Party, the military and state companies and institutions.

Poor and largely isolated from outside information, North Koreans grieve in an atmosphere that is part family mourning, part coercion. "Bad things have happened to North Koreans who refused the cult of personality around Kim Jong-il. Once in the habit of complying with cult norms, it is not easy suddenly to stop," Clark McCauley, a psychology professor at Bryn Mawr College, said in an email. Even victims of persecution, he said, sometimes come to regard the leader as a great man, regardless of their personal suffering.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contagious

- **"Mourning, like laughter,** is contagious in a social network," said Scott Atran, an American anthropologist who studies the psychology of groups at France's National Centre for Scientific Research.
- **"People usually believe** they are slightly exceptional to the norm. But if they want to be part of the group they over-exaggerate and go toward the extreme of what they think the norm is," Atran said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Koreans grieve as they visit a portrait of their late leader Kim Jong-il on display in the plaza of the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

Syrian troops massacre 100 villagers: Activists

As government troops advanced on a village in northwestern Syria, activists say the terrified residents fled into a valley for fear of being arrested or worse. What happened next, one of the activists said, was "an organized massacre."

The troops surrounded the valley and unleashed a barrage of rockets, tank shells, bombs and gunfire in an hours-long assault, according to two human-rights groups and a witness, killing more than 100 people and leaving no survivors in one of the bloodiest days of a crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad against a nine-month popular uprising.

The White House said it was "deeply disturbed" by Tuesday's attack, France called it a "murderous spiral," and the Arab League reminded the al-Assad regime of its responsibilities to protect its civilians.

The United Nations says more than 5,000 people have died since March as Syria has sought to put down the uprising — part of the Arab Spring of protests that has toppled long-serving unpopular leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Members of Syria's opposition said the bloodshed outside the village of Kfar Owaid, about 50 kilometres from the northern border with Turkey in Idlib province, was evidence of the authoritarian leader's intent to intensify its crackdown on the uprising before Arab League observers arrive in the country Thursday. The death toll from two days of violence this week topped 200, including up to 70 army defectors killed near the city of Idlib, the activists said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. reaction

- **The Obama administration** reacted to the latest reports by renewing its call for Bashar al-Assad to step down, saying he "does not deserve to rule Syria."
- **"The United States** is deeply disturbed by credible reports that the al-Assad regime continues to indiscriminately kill scores of civilians and army defectors, while destroying homes and shops and arresting protesters without due process," the White House said in a statement.

Burning. The Clocks

People watch fireworks at the end of the Burning The Clocks Festival on Wednesday in Brighton, England.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Winter solstice marked

The annual Burning The Clocks celebration, enjoyed by thousands of people who carry paper lanterns through the streets of Brighton, culminates on Brighton Beach, where the lanterns are burned and the winter solstice is marked.

Columbus link to syphilis in Europe back in spotlight

A 500-year-old debate in anthropological circles involving whether Christopher Columbus and his crew brought syphilis back to Europe has been re-ignited thanks to a new report published in the Yearbook of Physical Anthropology.

The study's authors, George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University along with Molly Zuckerman, a former student and now assistant professor at Mississippi State University and Kristin Harper, currently a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia University, have concluded that there is no adequate evidence to suggest syphilis was prevalent in Europe prior to Columbus' historic voyage in 1492.

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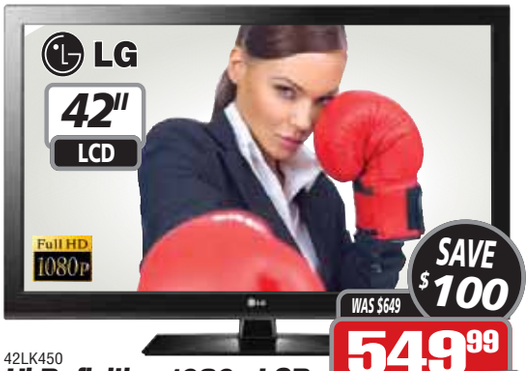

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Fury in Israel over ex-prisoner visit

Palestinian leader meets woman accused of luring Israeli teen to his death

Israel is furious at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for meeting Wednesday with a Palestinian woman who lured an Israeli teen to the West Bank in 2001, where he was killed.

Abbas met Amna Muna in Turkey, along with 10 other former prisoners who were released and banished there as part of a deal that freed an Israeli soldier held captive by Gaza's militant Hamas group. Muna, 35, was serving a life sentence for using an Internet promise of romance to lure 16-year-old Ophir Rahum to the West Bank, where he was killed by waiting militants. "This (meeting) raises serious questions as to their commitment and their desire to end the (Mideast) conflict," said Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev. Abbas' adviser Nimer Hamad said it was natural for Abbas to "meet his people wherever they are." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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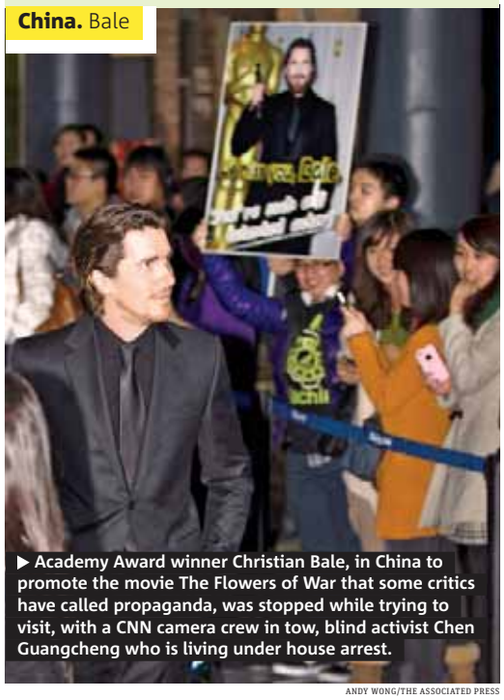
China. Bale



▶ Academy Award winner Christian Bale, in China to promote the movie The Flowers of War that some critics have called propaganda, was stopped while trying to visit, with a CNN camera crew in tow, blind activist Chen Guangcheng who is living under house arrest.

ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor stopped in tracks

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said Wednesday Hollywood star Christian Bale should feel embarrassed, not China, for trying to visit a human rights activist while he was in China to promote a movie the country has submitted for an Oscar.

Hacking at Chamber a reality: Lobby group

Hackers in China spent at least six months inside the computers of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and can still break in despite a massive security update, the lobby group said Wednesday.

The Chamber, which lobbies on behalf of almost all major U.S. corporations, described a "sophisticated" hacker attack.

"This was clearly somebody very sophisticated, who knew exactly who we are and who targeted specific people and used sophisticated tools to try to gather intelligence," said David Chavern, chief operating office of the Chamber.

The Wall Street Journal originally reported the security breach and said four Asia specialists at the three-million-member Chamber were targets.

From Beijing, foreign minister spokesman Liu Weimin called the report and the Chamber's response "baseless whipping up of so-called hacking. Chinese law bans hacking," Reuters reported.

Strange evidence includes a thermostat at a town house the Chamber owns on Capitol Hill communicating with an Internet address in China and a printer used by Chamber executives printing pages with Chinese characters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top Jamaican gang member beheaded: Police

Investigators say they have found the severed head of a high-ranking member of the Jamaican gang, Clansman, known for beheading victims. Police say the head of Navardo Hodges was found Wednesday in Spanish Town. Detectives suspect it was a revenge killing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Occupy Winnipeg

- Protesters had occupied Memorial Park since Oct. 15
- Throughout winter, camp of 30 dwindled to three

SEAN LEDWICH
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

"I'm disappointed at how disrespectful the police force was. They tore all the tarps. They just ripped it down and took all our stuff. They ripped all the tarps on the yurt, and that all belongs to the Twelve Tribes (community). And they ... (just) destroyed it."
KRISTAPS BALODIS, OCCUPIER

About 30 natural-resource officers and city police officers swooped into the Occupy Winnipeg encampment at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Wednesday to enforce a provincial removal order issued last week.

Police briefly detained three occupiers at the camp while NROs dismantled and loaded a yurt (a small tent-like structure), two tents and all contents onto a trailer. Occupiers were told they could claim their belongings after they were catalogued.

"They sent 30 guys to take care of three peaceful protesters," said Kristaps Balodis, who had been sleeping in the yurt.

"This isn't the end ... This isn't the last you'll see of the camp. That I can say for sure."

Of the three evicted occupiers, Terry Weaymouth was the only one to get a written notice of eviction.

"Occupy Winnipeg is pretty much done, in my opinion, unless we take immediate action to set up somewhere else," Weaymouth told Metro Winnipeg as he surveyed the empty park.

"Personally I'd like to see (a tent) go up tonight, even if it's just one tent, just to defy these f—ers."

Weaymouth said Manitoba Conservation district supervisor Joe Johannesson told him a hay bale fire last week was the final straw for the province.

"He said, 'Well, it's because of the last fire ... Safety is being threatened, so (we've) got to do this.' That's just an excuse."

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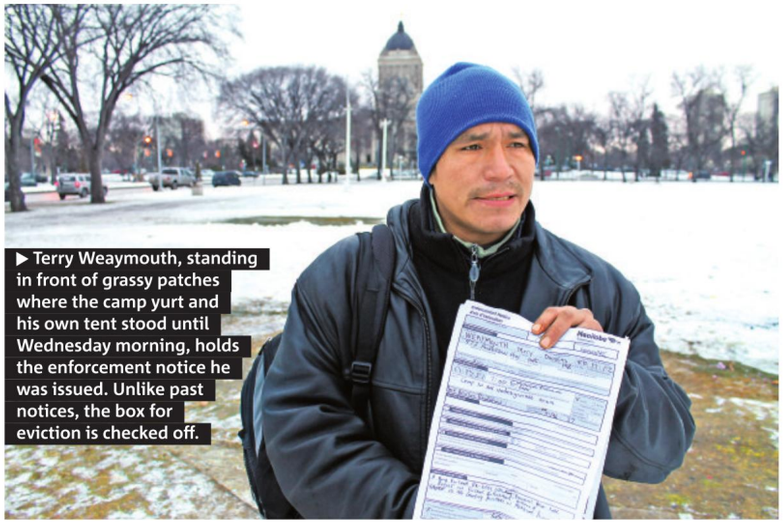
camp torn down

SEAN LEDWICH/METRO WINNIPEG



▶ Terry Weaymouth, standing in front of grassy patches where the camp yurt and his own tent stood until Wednesday morning, holds the enforcement notice he was issued. Unlike past notices, the box for eviction is checked off.

In a written statement on Monday regarding the previous week's removal orders, the province said, "As with past orders, structures that are occupied will be allowed to remain."

In the afternoon Conservation minister Dave Chomiak told media the province decided to remove the camp when they received a report from the fire commissioner on Tuesday calling the camp unsafe.

When asked what the response would be if occupiers were to erect a new tent, Chomiak said, "We'd immediately remove it."

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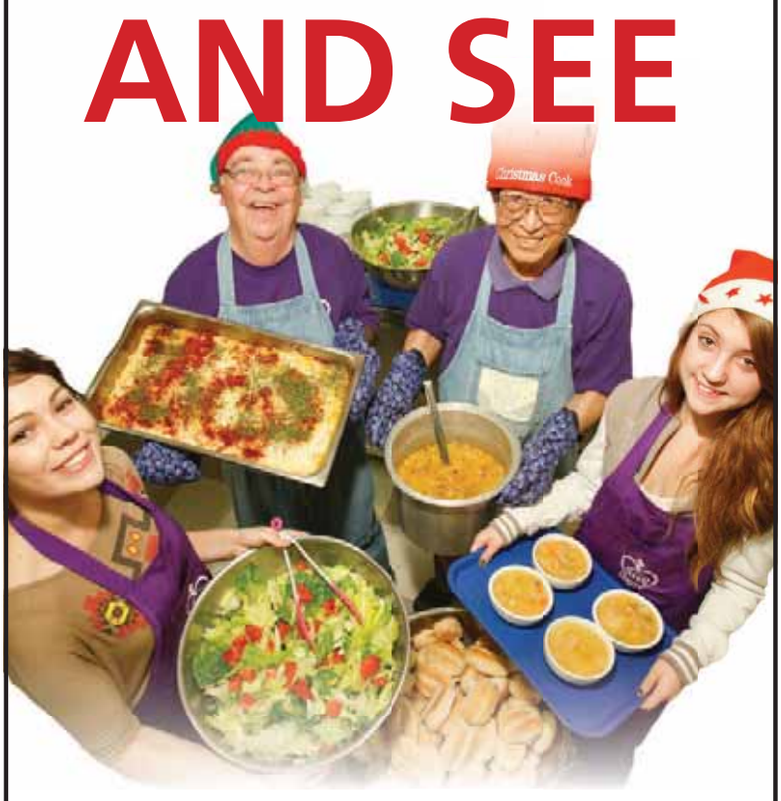

St. Margaret's Anglican Church, New Toronto, is known in the community as "The Church That Nourishes" due to the many home-cooked meals that it serves to parishioners, local residents and the homeless. Since its first annual Christmas Dinner Among Friends 17 years ago, it has served well over 100,000 meals in various programs and parish events. You are warmly invited to St. Margaret's this Christmas. The church is located one block east of Islington Avenue, just north of Lakeshore Boulevard West in Etobicoke. To learn more about St. Margaret's or to find an Anglican church near you, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

▶ Israeli Tomer Majerowicz is escorted into Halifax provincial court by a Border Services agent yesterday. Majerowicz and seven other Israelis pleaded guilty to working illegally in Canada.

Illegal workers must pay $1,000

Eight Israelis pulled from Halifax home plead guilty

JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN HALIFAX

Eight Israeli citizens pleaded guilty Wednesday to working illegally in Halifax.

Two more were to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday morning.

Border Services agents, assisted by police, searched a home in the Halifax area early Wednesday morning. Search warrants covering three area malls were also issued.

"They lied to me that it was legal work."
ACCUSED ISRAELI PAZ KFIR, 21, SPEAKING TO THE COURT

The Israelis were said to be working at kiosks selling gel heating pads to Christmas shoppers.

Border agents escorted a number of people in handcuffs out of the Halifax home throughout the day. A few neighbours said they weren't surprised.

"I've been suspicious of that house for a while," said one neighbour.

Albert Price, manager of the criminal investigations division for Canada Border Services Agency, said eight men and two women were arrested for working without authorization or employing foreign nationals.

One woman, Paz Kfir, 21, told court she was offered what she thought at first was legal work.

Kfir, like the seven others who appeared in court Wednesday, pleaded guilty and were handed $1,000 fines — which they need to pay by Jan. 27.

Booze bad, pot OK: B.C.ers

Columbians believe alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana, a new Angus Reid poll suggests.

In an online survey among 800 B.C. adults, 59 per cent of respondents disagreed that regular marijuana use is more harmful than regular alcohol use.

The poll also found that 54 per cent of B.C. residents do not agree marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug.

And 51 per cent say they don't believe marijuana is a "gateway" drug that can lead to the use of other dangerous drugs.

The survey commissioned by Stop the Violence B.C. — a coalition of academic, legal, law enforcement and health experts trying to legalize marijuana — was conducted from Sept. 7 to 9, 2011.

Jodie Emery, wife of pot activist Marc Emery, said this new information proves public support for legalization is growing.

"The science and the evidence are all there," Emery said.

"You can't deny the truth, and the truth is backed up by evidence and proof."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS IN VANCOUVER

Women warned about toxic breast implants

Product not sold in the U.S. Never authorized for sale in Canada, says Health Canada spokesperson

French health authorities are considering whether to suggest that an estimated 30,000 women in France get their breast implants removed, amid warnings by leading doctors about the risks of rupture and possible cancer.

The decision also could have repercussions outside France. Tens of thousands of women in Britain and around Europe also have the pre-filled silicone-gel implants made by now-defunct French firm Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP.

More than 1,000 of the implants have ruptured, the French health and safety agency AFSSAPS said, and eight women have developed cancer. The implants were taken off the market last year over suspicions that a cheaper industrial silicone was used.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Plastic surgeon Dr. Maurice Mimoun holds silicone-gel breast implants made by Poly Implant Prothese. He removed them from a patient because of concerns that they're unsafe.

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RIM takeover unlikely: Experts

BlackBerry maker reportedly rejected offer from retail giant Amazon.com

swirling around Research In Motion on Wednesday — lifting its stock price — analysts said there's little chance the BlackBerry maker will change hands in the near future.

National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson points to RIM's dismal performance and uncertain outlook while BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said the business model presents the biggest challenge to an acquisition.

"RIM is the only hybrid equipment manufacturer and service provider," Long wrote in a note.

Long also said poor strategic decisions make it hard for RIM to realize the true asset value and it's unclear that management and the board want to sell.

Thompson said slow sales of the current lineup of BlackBerrys won't encourage buyers either.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holiday. Shopping

▶ Shoppers flock to a Toronto shopping mall as retailers hold their breath, hoping consumers will keep spending in the final days before Christmas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retailers see a jolly season

The holiday shopping season is wrapping up to be bigger than anyone expected. Sales from November through Saturday rose 2.5 per cent, compared to a year ago, according to research firm ShopperTrak. Online, shoppers have spent almost $32 billion so far, a 15 per cent increase from a year ago, according to comScore, which tracks web use.

Market moment

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JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm not much for Christmas carols.

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a candy cane.

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday "classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick.

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

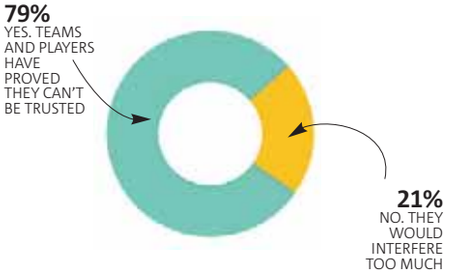
And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets

- **@MarisaHYDF:** GAH, jealous of everyone at Massey Hall right now for @justinbieber's show! Hope everyone has a great time! <3
- **@Bieber_Beauty...:** Today I wish I was in Massey Hall to see @justinbieber performance .. #sad the Tickets are SOLD OUT
- **@TPSChrisBoddy:** So u wanted to give someone @justinbieber tickets for xmas? We have the alternative. Come by #Toronto Police HQ and visit our gift shop.
- **@NarguesMansouri:** Tonight is Winter Solstice... The longest night of the year! May you be protected from all misfortunes! Happy #Yalda
- **@LucaDeMontis:** I think the Toronto Raptors Camouflage Jersey is ugly and I'm not a fan of the 3D Raptors logo on the end zones. Keep it original.
- **@H_Dhillon:** #BoxingDayTips the stores raise their prices, starting in September until December, so we just THINK we're getting a deal.
- **@A_PHATT:** #Raptors gunna be rockin a Cambo Jersey a first in the #NBA finally dem a do something right!! #Toronto Brraaappppsss!!!

Daily Zoom

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Christmas comes early

Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmas-themed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

Quite the yuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. METRO

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

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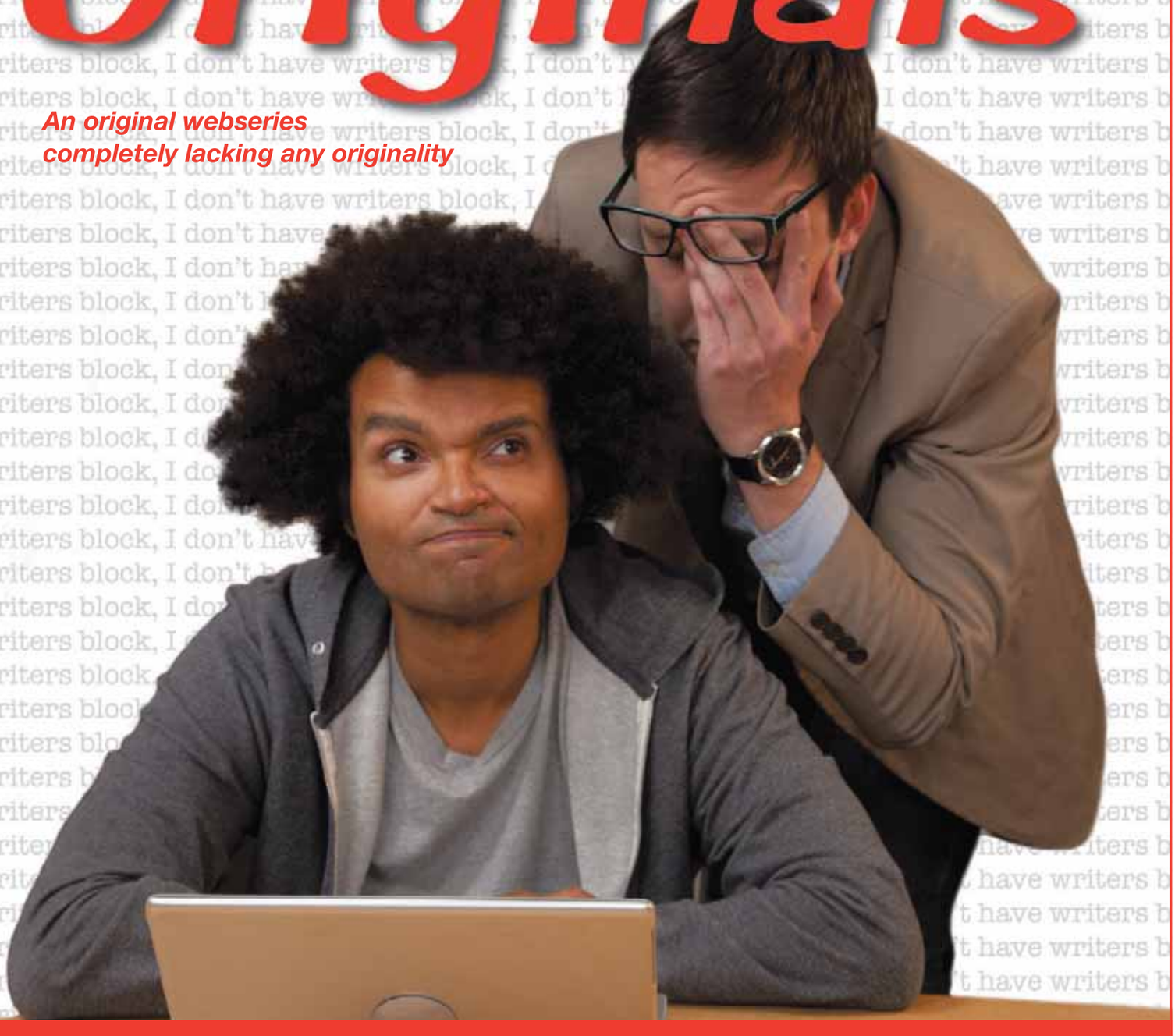
From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

An original webseries completely lacking any originality

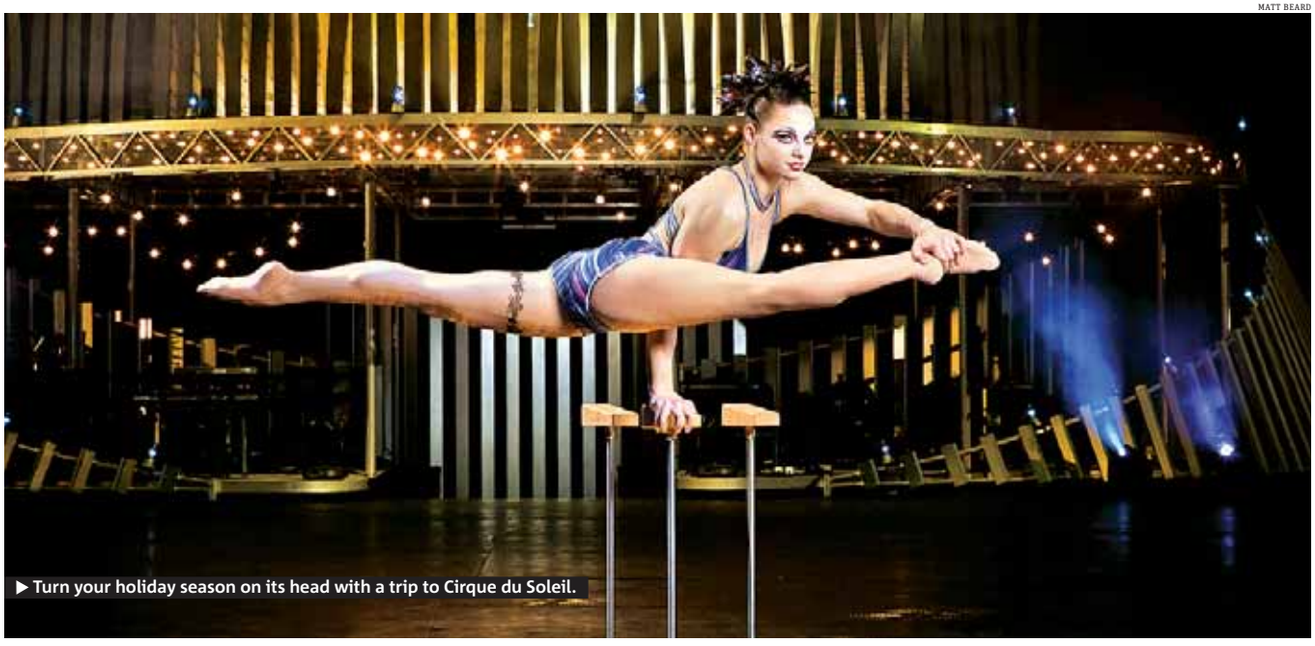


In today's episodes...

The Originals webseries draws to a close today with episodes 8 and 9. Will the guys finally come up with an original TV show idea for their big pitch meeting? Will Jason win Carina? Will Marsha win Jason? Will Trish really help Bryce? Will there be a wrap party? Find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions. Watch the concluding episodes today.

Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

MATT BEARD



▶ Turn your holiday season on its head with a trip to Cirque du Soleil.

Marvels of the machine

Cirque du Soleil's massive operation comes together under the direction of a small team

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

People often talk about the physical feats of strength of Cirque du Soleil's performances but ignore the technical marvels going on backstage. Ensuring things stay that way is Gabriel Dube-Dupuis, general stage manager for Quidam, now playing at the Ricoh Coliseum.

As stage manager, Dube-Dupuis is responsible for scheduling and calling all the technical cues during the performance. If he's doing a good job, the audience shouldn't know he's there.

"I often compare myself to the orchestra leader," he says.

"I try to keep everyone on the beat."

There are three stage managers in total with Dube-Dupuis managing the other two. He, in turn, reports to the artistic director.

"I'm the bridge between the artistic and tech worlds," he says. "I find a way to do what the director wants to do."

He was brought into the Cirque world by his performer father Francois Dupuis. When Dube-Dupuis was 14, his father joined Mystere in Las Vegas and moved the family to Nevada. Dube-Dupuis learned the ropes backstage after school.

"That's where my passion was really ignited."

He started an apprenticeship with the company in 1997 and by 1998 he was the assistant director on the video side of the production.

"I never had any desire to be onstage like my father," he says, "but I grew up backstage. I needed to be in that environment."

While his father continues to perform in Vegas, Dube-Dupuis's job takes him around the world, creating many unique opportunities, from working on the Academy Awards broadcast to researching The Beatles in their hometown of Liverpool for Cirque's Love.

"I've never been on a show longer than three years. I'm constantly changing environments."

There is no master plan, he says. Instead, he simply does what feels right.

"My instincts have been very good so far."

Tickets

Where to get tickets

▶ **Ticket prices :** Available until Dec 30. Ricoh Coliseum, 100 Princes Boulevard. $51.75-$131.75.

2 scene

Split

Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS has year's biggest margin of victory in prime time ratings

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Battle of the Canuck crooners

It's a tale of the tape as Justin Bieber and Michael Bublé square off for Christmas dominance

Justin Bieber's holiday show may be the hottest ticket in Toronto this week, but few have better reasons for Christmas cheer this season than his compatriot Michael Bublé.

While Bieber performed a hotly anticipated acoustic Christmas show at Toronto's Massey Hall on Wednesday night, Bublé is fresh off a memorable performance on Saturday Night Live and his holiday disc has been one of the hottest items of the holiday shopping season.

So, which Canadian crooner is flying higher at the moment?

Perhaps a tale of the tape can help determine the victor.

AGE

Bublé is 36; Bieber is 17.

HOMETOWN

Bieber hails from Stratford, Ont., while Bublé grew up in Burnaby, B.C.

MOST MANTEL METAL

Considering that Bieber's brand of featherlight teen-pop typically elicits sneering from some critics, his awards tally has been impressive: two Juno Awards and a pair of Grammy nominations. Respectable, to be sure, but no match for Bublé, whose distinctive retro charm has helped him haul home 10 Junos and three Grammys.

Advantage: Bublé

FAMOUS FRIENDS

Bublé has a longstanding partnership with well-connected Canadian hitmaker David Foster, he reeled in Shania Twain for a White Christmas duet and he starred in a splashy holiday special that featured a bevy of well-known guests, none bigger than ... well, Justin Bieber. Bieber, meanwhile, has collaborated with Usher, Kanye West, Mariah Carey, Miley Cyrus, Chris Brown, Rascal Flatts, Ludacris and Boyz II Men.

Advantage: Bieber

TABLOID TRAUMA

Bieber's squeaky-clean image was tainted slightly this

▶ In this corner, hailing from Burnaby, B.C., Michael Bublé.

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PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ And in this corner, hailing from Stratford, Ont., Justin Bieber.

year when the singer was slapped with a paternity suit — allegations his team has vigorously denied — while he and girlfriend Selena Gomez were shadowed everywhere they went by prying paparazzi.

The newlywed Bublé and wife Luisana Lopilato seem to be afforded slightly more privacy.

Advantage: Bublé

SILVER-SCREEN DREAMS

Bublé has mused in interviews about an eventual transition to acting, and he won laughs with a recent cameo on Saturday Night Live (one which coincidentally poked fun at Bieber). But his IMDB credits are limited to pre-fame performances in little-known stinkers (2001's Totally Blonde, anyone?).

Bieber's two-episode arc as a troubled teen on CSI didn't exactly elicit Emmy attention, but it was a bona fide role on a popular show, and his concert film Never Say Never earned more than $70 million in North America.

Advantage: Bieber

SPORTS ALLEGIANCES:

Bublé is a diehard Vancouver Canucks fan who watched his team come within one game of a Stanley Cup win last spring.

The last time Bieber's beloved Toronto Maple Leafs even made the playoffs — back in 2004 — he had just turned 10 years old.

Advantage: Bublé

SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

This one's a landslide.

Bieber has nearly 15.6-million followers on Twitter, an army of devoted fans who hang on his every lower-case missive as if their lives depend on it. Bublé has roughly 600,000 followers but doesn't issue the tweets himself — the reliably irreverent singer told The Canadian Press recently that he had to stay away from the platform because "(he would) get in huge trouble within days."

Advantage: Bieber

DECEMBER DOMINANCE

While Bieber's Under the Mistletoe has sold briskly — reaching platinum certification three times in Canada — Bublé has this year achieved a level of holiday ubiquity usually reserved for festive drinks, goofy sweaters and tense family dinners.

Bublé's album, Christmas, has been certified platinum seven times over in Canada and, according to Billboard, it's on pace to become the second best-selling record of the year in the U.S., behind only Adele's 21.

Advantage: Bublé

BEST HAIR

Sorry, Mike.

Advantage: Bieber

THE WINNER:

Two Canadians doing extraordinarily well for themselves with fanbases that barely overlap?

Let's call this a tie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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We want to watch too

U.S. cable hits slow to make their way across the border to Canadian TV schedule

▶ Kelsey Grammer stars in the critically-acclaimed show Boss, which is not currently aired in Canada.

Each year at about this time, the launch of the U.S. awards season only serves to highlight a glaring disparity for TV fan Maria Lau — some of the hottest, most acclaimed series are not available in Canada.

Case in point: Boss, the breakout Starz show that just netted a Golden Globe nomination for best drama and a best actor nod for star Kelsey Grammer. The edgy serial, centred on a hardnosed Chicago mayor, currently can't be seen north of the border and that's bewildering to entertainment addicts like Lau.

"It is frustrating as a TV viewer," says the 32-year-old Lau, who scours the Internet for details about and clips of critical smashes that often land here months late.

"I'm a pop culture junkie so I subscribe to all the U.S. magazines that talk about television and movies and stuff like that. I end up reading about (these shows) and you get intrigued by what the show is about and you get rave reviews and you're kind of like, 'Well, why can't I watch it?'"

Boss is actually heading to the Canadian pay network Super Channel in April, but that's a long time to wait for small screen fanatic Christine Alexiou, who voices similar complaints.

"We're always waiting," says Alexiou, acknowledging it's particularly frustrating for reality competition shows like Lifetime's Project Runway, which airs belatedly here on Slice.

"(Before a show arrives) you're already going 'Damn, it's been done. It's already there (in the U.S.) and it's already over.' We should all know the winner by now and yet we can't even see the show."

Canada's basic main networks — Global, Citytv, CTV and CTV Two — routinely match their schedules with U.S. networks ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox but that's because they essentially compete for the same Canadian eyeballs, says CTV executive Mike Cosentino, referring to a practice known as simulcasting.

Meanwhile, Canada's specialty and pay channels air their imports exclusively in this country, so there is no advantage to matching the U.S. schedule if a Canadian viewer can't legally watch the show anywhere else, says Shaw

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content boss Barb Williams.

"It's not like you can simulcast — that's what really drives the day-and-date on conventional," says Williams, who oversees programming for 18 specialty channels including Showcase, IFC and Slice.

"There's no huge advantage to being absolutely on the same day."

Savvy TV viewers are increasingly putting pressure on broadcasters to make buzzy series available in a myriad of ways but they especially want to watch them as close to the U.S. premieres as possible, says Maria Hale, head of TV programming and production for Corus, which oversees Movie Central/HBO Canada.

Hale says that's increasingly become a goal for her premium channels, noting that HBO Canada comes close to that day-and-date guarantee with its lineup.

Movie Central offers a mishmash of series largely drawn from Starz (Spartacus) and Showtime (Dexter, Nurse Jackie, Californication) as well as Canadian original productions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FX factor

- Rogers Media broadcasting boss Scott Moore says that the FX channel had little presence here before crossing the border as FX Canada earlier this year, but still drew enthusiastic media coverage as it brought Sons of Anarchy, pictured, and Terriers to a wider audience.
- Those shows were previously only available on Super Channel, a national pay service that charges a premium and has struggled to build a subscriber base.

Getting 'under the skin of the viewer'

Trent Reznor's novel approach to Dragon Tattoo score is rewarded with a Golden Globe nod

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross started writing music for the American adaptation of The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo months before they'd even seen the script.

"We tried some new approaches in terms of handing over lots and lots of music that was composed really from an impressionist point of view, before anything was even shot, so that (director) David (Fincher) and the filmmakers could really weave it into the fabric of the story," Reznor said. "Just see how that works: A new experiment."

It seems to have worked just fine: The composers earned a Golden Globe nomination last week for their original score — their second consecutive nomination in that category. The pair won the Golden Globe and the Academy Award for their score for 2010's The Social Network.

Reznor, 46, said working with Fincher on The Social Network prepared the composers to take a novel approach to the music for Dragon Tattoo.

"As I learned how the process works on Social Network, it struck me that the director could really use access to music while the scenes are being edited together," he said.

"Often what they do is reach into a bucket of temp music to kind of get the vibe of what they think it might sound like. I thought, well, if you had a lot of music to start with, that would certainly be a helpful tool while they're putting the broad strokes of the film together."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Trent Reznor

Reznor and Ross dedicated a year to the project, and much of the music they wrote before shooting began made it into the final film, which opened Wednesday. The film follows a journalist (played by Daniel Craig) who enlists the help of a young computer hacker (Rooney Mara) to investigate a series of decades-old killings. The original Swedish version of the film, based on Stig Larsson's novel, was released in 2009.

Fincher's film is "a fairly unpleasant and uncomfortable viewing experience," Reznor said.

"We really wanted to get under the skin of the viewer and contribute to a sense of uneasiness when that was appropriate, and also try to breathe life into the landscape where this takes place, a very frigid Sweden, and act like set dressing really. It's not an obvious score."

He said the composers aimed to create music that "fits right in with the lighting or the set design or the costumes."

"There's nothing I think you're going to leave the theatre humming in your head necessarily in terms of score, and that's intentional," Reznor said.

It's a completely new way to think about music for the Nine Inch Nails frontman.

"When I'm writing music for myself or for my own projects, I'm hoping that it eats up close to 100 per cent of your attention, what's coming into your ears. And working in film and particularly with David, it really is contributing to the overall experience," Reznor said.

"It's forcing me to rethink how I compose and what role sound plays and how to contribute and manipulate emotionally what you're experiencing but not in the same way I'm used to doing it, and that makes it exciting for me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dancing days for Crowe

Director of We Bought a Zoo returns with much enthusiasm

Fresh off an inspired writing session, Cameron Crowe is pulsing with enthusiasm.

He spent the previous night sitting outside New York's Plaza Hotel, a spot that made him recall one of his first trips to New York — as a teenage journalist for Rolling Stone — in which he stayed at the Plaza while chronicling a Led Zeppelin tour.

"I was just thinking, 'Man, it's like no time has passed,' says Crowe. "This is the future time. That's what it was. You always wonder, 'In the future time, what will this all mean? What will it all amount to?' That was kind of the revelation of last night: Here I am. And it feels like no time."

After six years of uncertainty, the present is feeling good for Crowe, the writer-director of earnest, personal films such as Say Anything... and Jerry Maguire.

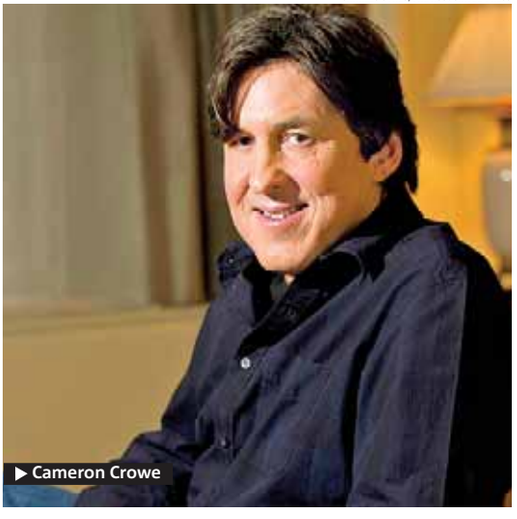
He's back with his first feature film since 2005's critical and box-office misfire Elizabethtown: We Bought a Zoo, an unabashedly warmhearted family film about a father (Matt Damon) who, after his wife dies of cancer, impulsively buys a rundown zoo to re-energize himself and his two kids.

Though no masterpiece, We Bought a Zoo is considerably better than its title and plot synopsis suggest.

It's a rare film Crowe has directed but hasn't written (he shares screenplay credit with Aline Brosh McKenna, who adapted Benjamin Mee's autobiographical book), and it bears many hallmarks of the director.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Cameron Crowe

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Fighting against the false 'idols'

American Idol runner-up David Archuleta taking a break from music to serve on Mormon church mission

American Idol runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The contestant from the 2007-2008 season made the announcement during a Christmas concert Monday in downtown Salt Lake City, according to the Deseret News.

The 20-year-old Miami native, who grew up in Murray, Utah, said he's not quitting music, but feels a strong call to serve the church.

A video of the concert on Archuleta's website shows him overwhelmed with emotion and crying as he talks about his plans. The crowd screams wildly with the news and gives him a standing ovation.

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ David Archuleta

"It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," Archuleta told the crowd.

Archuleta was 16 and one of the youngest contestants when he competed on the seventh season of American Idol. The runner-up has since released three albums, one of which debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart.

In 2010, he performed with the Grammy-winning Mormon Tabernacle choir at the group's annual Christmas concert.

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Angry Anthony eyes custody battle with JLo

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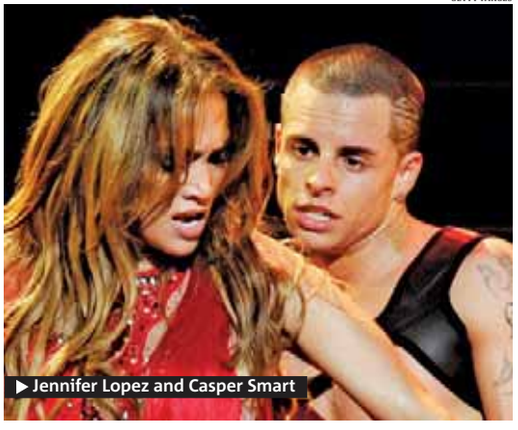

▶ Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly.

The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, Casper Smart, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme. Antony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says.

"He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her on the deepest level."

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Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season Jones' rep denies the claims

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says.

"The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

Steve Jones

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Justin Timberlake

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.

Hathaway in no New York hurry to tie the knot

Anne Hathaway is ready to marry fiancé Adam Shulman — but apparently not as ready as the New York Post would like.

The newspaper reported earlier this week that the couple had set an October 2012 wedding date and had even sent out save-the-date cards to guests for a lavish, New York-area ceremony.

However Hathaway's rep insists that there is no date and no cards have been sent out, according to a report from E! News.

METRO

Anne Hathaway

Justin Bieber

More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."

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Celebrity tweets

Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

@joelmchale

@rosariodawson

I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

@NathanFillion

Dear Morning Coffee, How was your ride to work on top of my car? Glad you made it. But now you're iced coffee.

@sarahksilverman

Had a war time dream where I had to go to battle but I didn't want to because I had a zit

Penn a 'communist'

Sean Penn reportedly got into a screaming match at LAX airport recently with former co-star — and longtime Penn critic — Maria Conchita Alonso, the actress reveals. "I said, 'You are a communist, Sean Penn.' He said, 'You are a pig!' So I said, 'And you are a communist a–hole! " Alonso says. The actress, who starred with Penn in 1988's Colors, says she wanted to apologize.

Sean Penn

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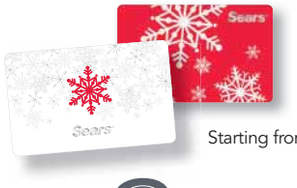

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In and out of fashion

The most unavoidable and most underrated fashion moments of 2011

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the best-dressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

1 Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

2 A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

3 Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding — as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell a la the movie Bridesmaids.

4 Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on Facebook. But have you seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

5 Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate and Jamie are in love with a rock 'n' world.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate gets to grips with the Royal wave.

GETTY IMAGES

Here comes the reluctant bride.

The single most reason not to do drugs

Witness John Galliano's horrific video rants and spectacularly fast fall from grace climaxing with his dismissal from Christian Dior and his own eponymous line to boot.

The year's most coveted designery

The prize goes to Marc Jacobs, whose entire spring '12 ready-to- wear collection was stolen while in transit from Paris to London. Shortly afterwards, roughly $400,000 of Louis Vuitton goods, also Jacobs-designed, were nicked at an airport in Paris.

When overdressed became boring

One can only look at a sheer top and pasties so many times before it loses its shock value. Simply put, Lady Gaga's outlandish outfits simply don't look that outlandish anymore. And the same goes for Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Jessie J and pop music's other crazy ladies. We vote for a make-under.

THE YEAR'S MOST OVERRATED FASHION PLATES

THE KARDASHIANS

- Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?

WILLOW SMITH

- This little tyke wears way too many garments all at once. Someone please fire one of her stylists.

3 life

Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line. Her natural hair, artful print mixing and flair for boyish silhouettes strikes the perfect balance between classic and eccentrically cool.

MWN

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Solange looking fab

Michael Kors goes from runway to Wall Street after investors clamour for stock

STRIPES

Thanks to the house of Prada, the streets have been awash with enough bold, fat, skinny, multi-coloured, neon, vertical and horizontal stripy brights to put a yesteryear beach scene to shame. The reason: stripes are fashionable enough for insider brownie points without resembling a one-woman fashion victim warning sign.

THE '70S

You know the look: wide leg jeans, floppy hat, sky-high platforms. Or perhaps this one: a long floaty dress with – you guessed it – a floppy hat. The '70s was fashion's most easily exportable trend to the streets thanks to the carefree nights of clubbing it conjured up and its relative easiness to wear.

STACKED BRACELETS

Blame Jak & Jil blogger Tommy Ton for all the male and female wrists you've been seeing weighed down with stacks of bling, neon-coloured yarn and leather cords.

POLKA-DOTS

They were supposed to be the new stripes, appearing all over the autumn/winter 11 runways, and then nothing happened. Witness the number of polka-dot clothes and accessories left on clearance racks the world over.

KITTEN HEELS

These were supposed to be the new platforms, giving women a break from the back-breaking stilts. Fashion editors and designers loved them and duly pushed them in their magazine pages. But the rest of the world? Not so much.

THE '60S

Women had barely worn their '70s maxi skirts when the runways began trying to push us into skimpy '60s style shift dresses. Too much too soon? Seeing as we're all doing a spot of penny pinching at the moment, it appears high street shoppers just weren't ready for the fashion pendulum to swing the other direction so fast.

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Arch appeal: Achieve simple, spirited brows

THE KIT

By Janine Falcon

Bold brows wowed from the most recent runways, theatrically at Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander Wang, and in a more wearable fashion from Jill Stuart and Prada.

Powders and pencils are brow-building staples, but fine-tip marker-like pens are on the rise, like the one Anastasia launched a few years back. Now available from Stila, Urban Decay and Gosh, they offer sheer, long-lasting shades that suit everyone from light blonde to dark brunette.

Fine-tipped tools:

• Magic Markers Stila All Day Waterproof Brow Color in Medium (also comes in Light). $27 each, stilacosmetics.com.

• Gosh Long Lasting Brow Pens, in Dark Brown, Wheat, Mahogany and Venetian Brown. $15 each, goshcosmetics.com.

• Urban Decay Urban Brow Precision Tip Brow Tint in Universal Blonde and Universal Brunette. $24 each, urbandecay.com

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Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Now pre-taping 2 @CTVCanadaAM segments: 2011's top style mavens + fashion's top news stories. Who do YOU think rocked style this year?

- **@MsJoyce_xo:** so many choices but if they put Pippa Middleton on another best dressed list I am going to lose my mind. #idontseeit
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** I know... But hard to ignore. And better than some ol' movie star....
- **@WordfromSteph:** Kate Winslet. She's totally coming out of her shell. Her Cover shoot for British Glamour = fabulous!!
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Agree!!!!
- **@escobar700:** for the man...Adam Levels/ Anderson Cooper. For the ladies, Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker, Victoria Beckham Tilda Swinton.
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Cool choices!

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Xmas shopping @TeatroVerdi with my mum. True Joy!

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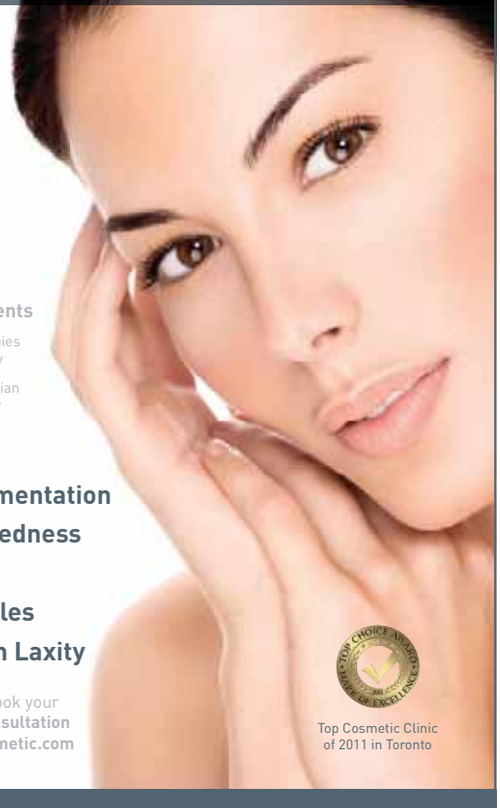

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Dragon breathes fire into line

Fictional character Lisbeth Salander's gothic-grunge style inspires a H&M collection with dark, urban feel

Stieg Larsson's enigmatic anti-heroine Lisbeth Salander, from the bestselling books and upcoming U.S. film remake The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, is an unlikely trendsetter.

From her multiple facial piercings and choppy, jet-black hair to her ripped tees and work boots held together with duct tape, Lisbeth's look is not only unconventional, but some might find it off-putting.

"We always wanted her clothes to sort of repel people and be a means of keeping people away," said actress Rooney Mara at the film's New York premiere Wednesday, a day before nabbing a Golden Globe nod for the role.

Yet huge Swedish retailer H&M saw an opportunity in sprucing up Lisbeth's style and making it safer for the masses.

The Dragon Tattoo Collection, created by costume designer Trish Summerville, features faux-leather coats, biker pants, shredded tees and dark denim miniskirts.

"There's different key pieces that I took out of her wardrobe that she wears in the film and we kind of changed the silhouette a little bit, changed the fabrication, cleaned the pieces up," explained Summerville in a recent interview.

The collection ranges from $3.95 for swirly, spiked earrings to $199 for a fitted black leather coat. There also are studded belts, slouchy canvas bags and black boots distressed just enough to reveal a grey under layer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SONY, COLUMBIA PICTURES, MERRICK MORTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Rooney Mara is shown in a scene from The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.

"There's different key pieces that I took out of her wardrobe that she wears in the film and we kind of changed the silouette a little bit... cleaned the pieces up"
TRISH SUMMERVILLE, DESIGNER

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A home by the river

The project overview

The first development of Toronto's West Don Lands revitalization, River City is now into phase two, with high-design, lofty-style suites, townhouses and penthouses with nine-foot exposed concrete ceilings and columns.

Expected occupancy is May of 2014.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

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Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** River City Phase 2
- **BUILDER:** Urban Capital Property Group
- **LOCATION:** West Don Lands
- **WEBSITE:** rivercitytoronto.com
- **PHONE:** 416-862-0505
- **SIZES:** From 400 to 2,000 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From $239,900 to $1,150,000

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Rendering of River City Phase 2 condominiums

Location and transit

Phase 2 will be located at King Street East, spanning east to the Don River park and south beyond the Gardiner.

It's minutes from downtown and from the subway, and will have easy driving access to the Don Valley Parkway.

In the neighbourhood

Lush greenery is all around and residents will have quick access to the Don Valley and waterfront park system and trails.

River City 2 is located close to the eclectic shops, restaurants and cafés of both King and Queen streets.

Building amenities

Two fully equipped exercise rooms with free weights, weight machines and cardio equipment. A 15,000 square foot courtyard, with heated outdoor pool and dining area. There's a two-storey glass lightbox lounge and party room with kitchen and bar, billiards table and a media area.

Real news. Toronto

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

ROOFTOP SURFING

PAUL GOLINI JR.
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

I gave a State of the Association speech a few weeks ago at BILD's annual general meeting and I was bold in saying that I thought we were going to beat last year's new home sales numbers — and I only had the figures from January to October.

Now that I've received the November tally, thanks to RealNet Canada Inc., BILD's official source of new home market intelligence, I am even more confident.

For starters the new homes market in the GTA broke two records in November, setting the bar a bit higher for both highrise sales and total new home sales.

There were 4,640 new homes and condominium units sold in the GTA in the month, which ended off about six per cent higher than the same month last year.

In the highrise sector of the industry, sales tallied 3,137 across the GTA, smashing the record set in 2010 for most units sold in November by 21 per cent.

Since this is my last column of the year, it's a great time for me to talk about year-to-date sales.

This year has been the best year ever for highrise sales across the GTA, surpassing the 2007 record of 23,234 back in October.

From January to November this year, 27, 224 highrise units were sold and while the city of Toronto had the most transactions, the highrise sales in York Region more than doubled in November from this time last year.

I'm going to take these numbers as a sign of what's to come in 2012 — new homes hitting a healthy market and an industry that's robust and ready to build them for you.

With that, I want to wish Metro readers a happy and healthy holiday and here's to a remarkable 2012!

PAUL GOLINI JR. IS CHAIR OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND CAN BE FOUND ON TWITTER (TWITTER.COM/BILDGTA), FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA), AND BILD'S OFFICIAL ONLINE BLOG (BILDBLOGS.CA).

Luxe up your condo

Classical decorative finishes are an excellent way to convert your plain condo walls and ceilings into a rich bold new experience

E MCALLISTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Decorative finishes cover a wide range, from fabrics to paper, paints, foils, aluminum and gold leaf, and organic finishes, and will dramatically transform the look of your dwelling without a great amount of construction and may permanently increase the value of your investment.

Toronto's older homes were built with solid plaster walls and adorned with cast ornamental embellishments.

The trades persons who worked here some 40 to 60 years ago are long gone. Modern day drywall has replaced plastering, which has become a lost art.

Despite this, there are a few highly-skilled specialists that do this type of work, such as Toronto's Peter Allerton.

"The plaster trade — all the skills of ornamental plaster, moulding and casting — are mostly lost, so it is something that I think has tremendous opportunities. The fellows I know who do it are doing very well."

Allerton has worked with some of Toronto's top designers, such as Brian Gluckstein and J.F. Brennan.

"A lot of it has to do with direction from a designer and what I'm able to use is my experience and technical skill to help support their view or for something new, something they're not that familiar with," he says.

A true artisan will know the subtle differences between a Moroccan and Italian style, for instance.

▶ Silver leaf applied to a condo entrance ceiling.

"In Morocco they just trowel up and down, that's all they do," explains Allerton. "In Italy, they trowel from right-to-left. It's a different way that it looks. And it's a different type of plaster."

Marble plaster makes for a versatile and luxurious finish in condos, and can be applied over regular drywall.

"Fine marble dust is what they use for Venetian plaster and it can be dull or it can be very shiny," explains Allerton.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETER ALLERTON

▶ A library with "pickled" white panelling and a black oak table.

Some finishes can be quite effective in modern condos and create a timeless, old-world charm. A strié, for example, is an old French and English traditional finish. It's a dragged glaze application that yields a natural striped texture.

"We just did a 23rd floor condo at the Renaissance on Cumberland. Before there was regular paint, but with the plaster and the wax, it made a huge difference in terms of the character of the room," says Allerton.

Imagine taking your ordinary fireplace and turning it into marble. "Faux marble is really big. There's a French patina that I did for Gluckstein. It looks like an old wood, what they call faux bois."

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Double duty Christmas decor

When in a holiday pinch, use what you've got

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

For me, Christmas is all about setting a festive mood with holiday decor.

Although it would be nice to buy new holiday decor items each year, I find myself wanting to get creative with things from years past to create a more personal style to my space this year.

Here's a few ways to create interesting holiday focal points with things you might already have around the house.

Layer your tables with decorative fabrics

Throws, blankets and quilts can add pattern and colour to a tabletop

These work to protect the table while giving it casual flair.

Whether layering on a buffet or coffee table, try adding rich colours and tones from lux throws like faux-fur, wool plaid or chenille fabrics for a worldly look.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Blankets and throws help make a decorative holiday table casual.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A wreath can go from door to table.

Use your wreath as a centrepiece

Last year's faux wreath or this year's fresh one hanging on the front door can easily take a horizontal position and become a festive centrepiece.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Funky holiday lights brighten up unused glass vases.

Display holiday lights in a tall vase

Fill various shaped glass vases with LED string lights and group together on a sofa table or in front of an used fireplace to create a modern holiday glow. Clear vases display multi-coloured lights best while white lights look great in coloured glass vases. This idea also makes a safe night light for your guests.

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Say 'cheese' for the New Year

Are you having people over to ring in 2012? Serve this healthy version of cheese fondue

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fondue serves four people

Want a trick for starting the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

Fondue is a casual and social way to celebrate. The trouble is, fondue — especially cheese fondue — can be incredibly unhealthy. A classic fondue starts with rich cheeses blended with a little spice and some white wine to create a savoury sauce for dipping chunks of bread and other morsels.

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess is low in calories and fat.

For the liquid, choose dry Champagne and a thickener similar to cornstarch called arrowroot in order to get the right consistency and flavour.

And the numbers alone are reason to celebrate. Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving. This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

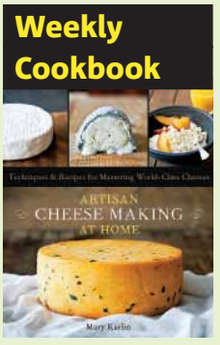
Preparation:

1. Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.
2. Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
3. Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
4. In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
5. In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
6. Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie. Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO, AUTHOR OF EAT THIS NOW!**

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light whole-wheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced shallot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec Champagne, divided
- 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut up with rind removed
- Salt and cayenne pepper

Weekly Cookbook



Mary Karlin's Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

A renowned cooking instructor, Karlin has spent years working alongside America's most passionate artisan cheese producers.

She presents her findings in this lavishly illustrated guide, which features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego, Irish-Style Cheddar, and Bloomy Blue Log Chèvre.

Tenderloin: The secret to entertaining on a budget

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The tenderloin serves 20 people.

Here is a recipe for the grill lover in you! In the cooler months you can still get out and grill to add tons of flavour and texture to a wonderfully tender cut of beef.

This is the one to serve a crowd this holiday season – easy and delicious.

Preparation:

1. Pat tenderloin dry with paper towels and brush meat with a thin coat of oil; set aside.
2. In a small bowl, mix together salt, pepper, garlic and cayenne. Sprinkle rub evenly over tenderloin.
3. Place tenderloin directly on greased grill over high heat and sear for 2 minutes on each side. After all the sides are seared, reduce one side of the grill to medium and the other side to the lowest possible heat. Set meat over cooler side and grill for another 30 to 40 minutes for medium-rare, or until a thermometer inserted at the thickest spot reads 55 C (130 F). Alternatively, sear in a large skillet on the stove, then set on a rack over a rimmed baking sheet and roast in a 180 C (350 F) oven. When tenderloin is done, transfer it to a platter, cover with foil and let rest for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, pour cream into a large stainless-steel bowl. Using an electric mixer, whip cream until soft peaks form. Add horseradish. Taste and adjust, adding more horseradish if you like it stronger. Season to taste with lemon juice and salt.
5. Thinly slice beef and serve with horseradish cream and dinner rolls. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL (EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK)/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 1 whole beef tenderloin (about 2.2-kg/5-lb)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) kosher salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) minced garlic
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cayenne pepper

Horseradish Cream:

- 500 ml (2 cups) 35% whipping cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) refrigerated prepared horseradish
- 30 mL (2 tbsp) lemon juice
- Fine-grain sea salt
- Dinner rolls

Puff it up in the pastry department

Fresh gourmet dates and walnuts are combined in this recipe to make stunning and decadent treats

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Make 24 pastry pouches with this recioe.

Ingredients:

- 400 g pkg frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dates, pitted (5 to 6 dates)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) finely chopped walnuts
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) flaked coconut
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 1 egg, beaten with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of water

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In food processor fitted with a metal blade, place dates, walnuts, coconut, flour and cinnamon and pulse until combined.
3. In bowl, beat sugar and butter together until well blended. Gradually mix in date-walnut mixture.
4. Unroll one sheet of puff pastry and place on lightly floured work surface. Using floured rolling pin, roll out puff pastry to horizontal rectangle measuring 40 by 30 cm (16 by 12 inches). Pastry will be thin. Using sharp knife, make three vertical cuts and two horizontal cuts to divide rectangle into 12 10-cm (4-inch) squares.
5. Place 15 ml (1 tbsp) of filling centre of each square and dampen edges with water. Gather 4 corners and bring them up to centre, pinching dough together firmly to secure at top, forming square pouches. Leave seams along edges open to allow some filling to show. Brush top and sides of each pouch with beaten egg.
6. Unroll second sheet of puff pastry and repeat. Transfer to baking tray and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool slightly on wire rack. Great served warm or at room temperature. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATURAL DELIGHTS MEDJOOL DATES/ ADAPATED BY EMILY RICHARDS (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Apple Walnut Palmiers

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) walnut pieces, coarsely chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) apple jelly
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) liquid honey
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 pkg (450 g/16 oz) butter puff pastry sheets, thawed

Preparation:

1. Line baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. In bowl, combine walnuts, apple jelly, honey and cinnamon.
2. Divide mix between two sheets of puff pastry and spread evenly. To shape, roll one edge of pastry to form pinwheel, stopping at middle. Roll opposite edge to make second pinwheel. Repeat with second puff pastry sheet.
3. Transfer palmiers onto a cutting board and cover with plastic wrap. Let chill in refrigerator at least 30 mins.
4. After palmiers refrigerate, slice each roll into 16 even slices. Place on baking sheets. Bake one sheet at a time in a 190 C (375 F) oven on centre oven rack for 35 mins. or until golden. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS**

Looking for some scoring

Lack of offence apparent as Raptors close out pre-season with another loss to Celtics

CELTICS	RAPTORS
81	73

ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Celtics forward Brandon Bass grabs a rebound against Raptors forward Amir Johnson on Wednesday.

When Dwane Casey talked about mixing and matching his playing rotation, starting lineups and substitution patterns as the NBA pre-season wound down, he sure wasn't kidding.

And now, after a second night of pre-season action to see what worked and what didn't, he's got precious little time to figure out what to do before the NBA regular season begins.

Job No. 1?

Work on the offence.

With disparate groups of player combinations struggling for any measure of cohesion or flow, the Raptors were at times dreadful on offence in Boston on Wednesday night, winding up 81-73 losers to the Celtics in their final tuneup game.

And while the defence was again solid at times — maybe not as consistently tenacious as it was Sunday but an improvement over last year nonetheless — the Raptors simply couldn't find enough offence to make it a game.

With a new starting five and a willingness to put odd combinations on the floor — at one time the backcourt was Jose Calderon, Jerryd Bayless and Gary Forbes — Casey got a look at a bunch of things that didn't work.

Now he's got between Thursday and Monday's season opener in Cleveland to work things out.

While Andrea Bargnani (20 points) and DeMar DeRozan (16) were effective for stretches offensively, the Raptors got little or no production from anyone else, really.

Aaron Gray started at centre and provided zero points, James Johnson, the starting small forward had four (double his production of Sunday) and starting point guard Jerryd Bayless had six points but was a non-factor for much of the game.

Defensively, the Raptors had some of the lapses Casey worried about in the first half, when the Celtics shot 53 per cent and jumped out to a 47-31 lead.

But they did tighten things considerably in the second but it wasn't good enough.

Rajon Rondo, far more effective Wednesday than he was Sunday, led Boston with 17 points while Brandon Bass had 12.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4 sports

Leafs preview

Buffalo at Toronto
7 p.m.
TV: Leafs TV

Toronto (16-13-4) hosts the Sabres (16-14-3) after losing to them 5-4 in Buffalo last Friday. Since then, the Sabres have lost two games by a combined score of 12-4. Ryan Miller was in net for both losses and was pulled after allowing five goals on 15 shots against Pittsburgh. Tomas Vanek has six points in his last three games and is tied with Jason Pominville for the team lead with 35 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs, Sabres in the same boat

Division rivals both struggling and hurting ahead of matchup Buffalo's last victory came against Toronto

As far as the Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Sabres are concerned, they have a little bit too much in common right now.

With injuries, losing streaks and pressure mounting, there's no denying the importance of Thursday's meeting between the division rivals at Air Canada Centre. They're both among the group of seven Eastern Conference teams separated by only four points.

"We need to win games," Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said Wednesday after practice. "You've got to find a way to fight through even key injuries ... and take advantage of situations to win games. We've been able to tread water. I think (Tuesday's loss in Ottawa) put us a little bit under (playoff position) and we need to bounce back and win a game.

"It's a tough league."

Reminders of that have been plentiful on both ends of the Leafs-Sabres rivalry. Buffalo has been playing without seven regulars, although that number will shrink slightly as forward Patrick Kaleta is expected to draw back into the lineup following a month away with a groin injury.

Toronto lost forwards Colby Armstrong (concussion) and Philippe Dupuis (upper body) this week, forcing it to recall Nazem Kadri and Darryl Boyce from the American Hockey League.

Both players were with the NHL team during a strong second half a year ago. Kadri, in particular, has the ability to be a difference-maker and is coming off being named the AHL's player of the month in November. The 21-year-old forward will be slotted on a scoring line with Tim Connolly and Clarke MacArthur to start.

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Buffalo's Thomas Vanek skates against Jake Gardiner last Friday.

"Last year in the second half of the season I thought he did a really good job," said Leafs coach Ron Wilson. "He was good on the boards. He didn't probably get as many offensive looks as he needs to be successful, but playing with Clarkie and Timmy he should get plenty of opportunities offensively.

"We'll get him out there when we can on the power play as well because that's one of the areas he's really good at the American League."

The last victory for the Sabres came in a 5-4 game against Toronto last week at First Niagara Center. Since then, they were hammered 8-3 in Pittsburgh on Saturday and lost 4-1 to Ottawa on Tuesday - part of a stretch where the team has gone 3-6-1.

The injured players feel no different than the team's fans at the moment.

"I know it's frustrating for everyone that's watching — there's a slew of us that are watching together," said forward Brad Boyes, who is nearing a return from an ankle sprain. "It's tough just to know that we can't get down there because we want to help out. The guys that we have out are guys that contribute and chip in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	33	21	8	2	2	116	95	46	8-5-1-1	13-3-1-1	8-1-0-1	W1
d-Boston	32	22	9	0	1	111	63	45	12-6-0-1	10-3-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
d-Florida	34	18	10	2	4	91	86	42	8-3-1-4	10-7-1-0	5-3-1-1	L1
NY Rangers	31	19	8	1	3	91	68	42	8-3-0-2	11-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	34	19	11	2	2	110	90	42	10-4-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	33	18	14	0	1	91	96	37	7-6-0-1	11-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	16	13	2	2	102	108	36	7-5-2-2	9-8-0-0	3-5-2-0	L3
Ottawa	34	16	14	2	2	106	117	36	9-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Washington	32	17	14	0	1	95	97	35	11-5-0-1	6-9-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Buffalo	33	16	14	2	1	90	98	35	8-9-2-1	8-5-0-0	3-5-2-0	L2
Winnipeg	33	15	13	3	2	91	100	35	11-5-0-1	4-8-3-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Montreal	35	13	15	2	5	88	97	33	5-7-2-4	8-8-0-1	3-4-0-3	L4
Tampa Bay	32	14	16	0	2	87	107	30	8-5-0-0	6-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	W2
NY Islanders	31	11	14	4	2	72	99	28	6-8-3-0	5-6-1-2	5-3-2-1	W2
Carolina	35	10	19	4	2	89	120	26	6-10-0-2	4-9-4-0	2-6-2-0	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	35	22	9	1	3	118	102	48	12-2-0-3	10-7-1-0	8-1-0-1	W1
d-Minnesota	35	20	10	2	3	85	78	45	10-4-1-2	10-6-1-1	5-3-0-2	L5
d-Dallas	33	19	13	0	1	86	93	39	10-5-0-1	9-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Detroit	32	21	10	1	0	107	71	43	13-2-1-0	8-8-0-0	7-3-0-0	W2
St. Louis	32	19	9	0	4	82	69	42	13-3-0-1	6-6-0-3	7-1-0-2	W1
Vancouver	33	20	11	0	2	110	80	42	9-4-0-1	11-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Phoenix	34	18	13	1	2	90	89	39	7-7-1-1	11-6-0-1	5-5-0-0	W2
Nashville	33	17	12	3	1	86	88	38	8-5-2-1	9-7-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
San Jose	30	17	10	2	1	86	74	37	10-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Los Angeles	33	15	14	2	2	72	81	34	8-9-0-1	7-5-2-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Calgary	34	15	15	2	2	84	95	34	9-5-1-1	6-10-1-1	5-3-1-1	W1
Colorado	34	16	17	1	0	91	102	33	10-9-0-0	6-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	W2
Edmonton	33	14	16	0	3	89	90	31	9-6-0-2	5-10-0-1	2-7-0-1	L4
Anaheim	33	9	19	2	3	78	110	23	7-9-1-0	2-10-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3
Columbus	33	9	20	1	3	80	111	22	6-10-1-1	3-10-0-2	3-6-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Chicago 5 Montreal 1
Philadelphia 4 Dallas 1
Phoenix 4 Carolina 3
St. Louis at Colorado
Detroit at Vancouver
Tampa Bay at San Jose
Tuesday's results
Calgary 2 Minnesota 1
Ottawa 4 Buffalo 1
N.Y. Islanders 3 Winnipeg 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 4 New Jersey 1
Phoenix 2 Florida 1
Pittsburgh 3 Chicago 2
Washington 4 Nashville 1
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

BLACKHAWKS 5, CANADIENS 1

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalty — Stalberg Chi (hooking) 16:56.
Second Period
1. Montreal, Kostitsyn 10 (Plekanec, Diaz) 5:35 (pp)
2. Chicago, Brunette 8 (Kane, Seabrook) 11:36
3. Chicago, Sharp 18 (Hossa) 11:57
Penalties — Plekanec Mtl (delay of game) 1:49, Frolik Chi (goaltender interference) 4:42, Blunden Mtl (holding) 8:15, Kane Chi (high-sticking) 18:39.
Third Period
4. Chicago, Stalberg 7 (Bickell) 10:29
5. Chicago, J.Toews 20 (Seabrook) 18:43 (en)
6. Chicago, Bickell 4 (Stalberg, Pirri) 19:48
Penalties — None.
Shots

Montreal	7	11	3	21
Chicago	7	12	9	28

Goal — Montreal: Budaj (L,1-4-0); Chicago: Crawford (W,13-7-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Montreal: 1-3; Chicago: 0-2.
Referees — Steve Kozari, Kyle Rehman. **Linesmen** — Darren Gibbs, Andy McElman.
Attendance — 22,081 (19,717) at Chicago.

LATE TUESDAY

ISLANDERS 3, JETS 2 (SO)

First Period
1. N.Y. Islanders, Parenteau 5 (Moulson, Tavares) 8:17
ing) 3:54.
Second Period
3. N.Y. Islanders, Grabner 10 (Hamonic, MacDonald) 3:53
4. Winnipeg, Ladd 11 (Antropov, Wellwood) 9:46
Penalty — Kane Wpg (goaltender interference) 18:40.
Third Period
No Scoring
Penalty — Oduya Wpg (hooking) 16:01.
Overtime
No Scoring
Penalties — None.
Shootout
N.Y. Islanders win 2-0
Winnipeg (0) — Wheeler, miss; Wellwood, miss; **N.Y. Islanders (2)** — Parenteau, goal; Nielsen, goal.
Shots

N.Y. Islanders	13	9	9	2—33
Winnipeg	8	11	14	5—38

Goal (shots-saves) — N.Y. Islanders: Montoya (19-17), Nabokov (W,2-5-0)(18:40 second, 19-19); Winnipeg: (L,11-11-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Islanders; 0-2; Winnipeg: 0-0.
Referees — Stephen Walkom, Brad Watson.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Don Henderson.
Attendance — 15,004 (15,004) at Winnipeg.

FLAMES 2, WILD 1

First Period
1. Calgary, Glencross 11 (Iginla, Butler) 2:47
2. Minnesota, Bouchard 6 (Spurgeon, Cullen) 6:10
Penalties — Staubitz Minn, Jackman Cal (fighting) 15:24, Palmer Minn (hooking) 17:57.
Second Period
3. Calgary, Iginla 13 (Smith, Jokinen) 6:02
Penalties — Stoner Minn, Kostopoulos Cal (fighting) 2:33, Zidlicky Min (slashing) 3:54.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Sarich Cal (elbowing) 6:22, Jokinen Cal (interference) 17:28, Jokinen Cal (slashing) 19:47.
Shots

Minnesota	13	6	11	30
Calgary	11	13	6	30

Goal — Minnesota: Harding (L,7-3-1); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,15-11-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Minnesota: 0-3; Calgary: 0-2.
Referees — Mike Hasenfratz, Dan O'Halloran.
Linesmen — Lonnie Cameron, Dan Schachte.
Attendance — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	19	20	39
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Malkin, Pgh	15	24	39
H.Sedin, Vcr	9	30	39
D.Sedin, Vcr	13	25	38
Stamkos, TB	20	17	37
Hossa, Chi	15	22	37
Spezza, Ott	12	25	37
Toews, Chi	19	17	36
Lupul, Tor	15	21	36
Sharp, Chi	17	18	35
Vanek, Buf	17	18	35
Versteeg, Fla	16	19	35
Selanne, Ana	11	24	35
Pominville, Buf	10	25	35
Eberle, Edm	13	21	34
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	21	34
Backstrom, Wash	12	22	34
Neal, Pgh	19	14	33
Datsyuk, Det	10	23	33
P.Kane, Chi	9	24	33
Weiss, Fla	11	21	32
Karlsson, Ott	3	28	31
Gaborik, NYR	19	11	30
Franzen, Det	14	16	30
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Ra.Whitney, Phx	11	19	30

HOCKEY

2012 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

All Times Eastern

EXHBITION SCHEDULE

Last night's results
At Calgary
Slovakia vs. Finland
At Camrose, Alta.
U.S. vs. Switzerland
Tuesday's results
At Red Deer, Alta.
Russia 6 U.S. 3
At Okotoks, Alta.
Czech Republic 7 Latvia 1
At Olds, Alta.
Sweden 8 Denmark 0
Tonight's games
At Red Deer, Alta.
Canada vs. Switzerland, 9 p.m.
At Brooks, Alta.
Latvia vs. Denmark, 9 p.m.
At Lethbridge, Alta.
Russia vs. Czech Republic, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Sweden, 9:30 p.m.
At Three Hills, Alta.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 9 p.m.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Monday, Dec. 26
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Finland, 3:30 p.m.
U.S. vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Sweden vs. Latvia, 5:30 p.m.
Russia vs. Switzerland, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
At Edmonton
Denmark vs. Czech Republic, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Latvia vs. Slovakia, 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
At Edmonton
Finland vs. U.S., 3:30 p.m.
Czech Republic vs. **Canada**, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 5:30 p.m.
Slovakia vs. Russia, 10 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Russia vs. Latvia, 10 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA BOWL GLANCE

All Times Eastern
(subject to change)
Last night's result
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego
Texas Christian (10-2) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4)
Tuesday's result
BEEF 'O'BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 20 FIU 10
Tonight's game
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Boise State (11-1) vs. Arizona State (6-6), 8 p.m.
Saturday's game
HAWAII BOWL

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	17	14	2	1	53	15	44
Man United	17	13	3	1	42	14	42
Tottenham	15	11	1	3	31	18	34
Chelsea	16	10	2	4	34	19	32
Arsenal	17	10	2	5	33	25	32
Liverpool	17	8	6	3	20	13	30
Newcastle	17	7	6	4	23	22	27
Stoke	17	7	3	7	18	28	24
Norwich	17	5	6	6	27	31	21
West Brom	17	6	3	8	19	26	21
Everton	16	6	2	8	17	19	20
Aston Villa	17	4	7	6	19	23	19
Fulham	17	4	6	7	18	23	18
Swansea	17	4	6	7	16	21	18
Sunderland	17	4	5	8	21	21	17
QPR	17	4	4	9	17	31	16
Wolverhampton	17	4	3	10	19	32	15
Wigan	17	3	5	9	15	30	14
Bolton	17	4	0	13	22	39	12
Blackburn	17	2	4	11	24	38	10

Yesterday's results
Aston Villa 1 Arsenal 2
Everton 1 Swansea 0
Fulham 0 Manchester United 5
Manchester City 3 Stoke 0
Newcastle 2 West Bromwich Albion 3
Queens Park Rangers 2 Sunderland 2
Wigan 0 Liverpool 0

ITALY

SERIE A

Yesterday's results
Udinese 0 Juventus 0
Atalanta 4 Cesena 1
Bologna 0 Roma 2
Inter Milan 4 Lecce 1
Lazio 0 Chievo Verona 0
Napoli 6 Genoa 1
Novara 2 Palermo 2
Parma 3 Catania 3

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Last night's results
Orlando 104 Miami 100
Boston 81 Toronto 73
New York 88 New Jersey 82
Memphis at New Orleans
Minnesota at Milwaukee
Houston at San Antonio
Portland at Utah
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 101 Washington 94
Detroit 90 Cleveland 89
Chicago 93 Indiana 85
Oklahoma City 87 Dallas 83
Denver 127 Phoenix 110
Sacramento 95 Golden State 91
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

REGULAR SEASON

Sunday's games
Boston at New York, Noon
Miami at Dallas, 2:30 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Lakers, 5 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	297
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	4	0	.714	343	236
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	293
Indianapolis	1	13	0	.071	211	395

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	236
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	285	218
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	313
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	327	185
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Tonight's game
All Times Eastern
Houston at Indianapolis, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's games
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Sunday's game
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

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Toronto FC will host Galaxy under the dome

CONCACAF Champions League quarter-final will be played on March 7

Toronto FC is leaving BMO Field for the Rogers Centre to host the Los Angeles Galaxy in their March 7 CONCACAF Champions League quarter-final.

The MLS champion Galaxy will host Toronto in the return leg in Carson, Calif., on March 14.

The game at the Rogers Centre will be played on artificial turf.

A spokesperson at Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment said it would be the same synthetic surface used in a friendly between Italian clubs Juventus and Fiorentina on May 25, 2010.

"Natural grass is a lot better than synthetic surfaces," said Juventus star Allesandro Del Piero after that match, sharply criticizing the playing conditions at Rogers Centre. "But the atmosphere was great, and I am happy the fans were so enthusiastic."

The winners of the CONCACAF quarter-final will advance to the semifinals in late March and early April.

Toronto is one of three MLS teams left in the club competition that covers North and Central America and the Caribbean.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Warriors star Ellis sued over harassment

NBA. A former Golden State Warriors employee filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against star guard Monta Ellis on Wednesday, alleging Ellis sent her unwanted texts that included a photo of his genitals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terry faces racial abuse charges

SOCCER. England captain John Terry will be the first footballer to face a court in Britain on a charge of racially abusing an opponent, the most serious step yet in a crackdown on racism in the sport. Terry has said his comments were taken out of context and vowed to fight the charges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Something's missing up the middle

THE HOCKEY NEWS

ADAM PROTEAU
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The Leafs have made strides in the Brian Burke era. They're a deeper, faster, tougher group than the Toronto squads that came before just before and after the 2004-05 lockout, but something's still missing.

A bona fide No. 1 centre.

Now, you can try convincing me Tyler Bozak is that guy, but you'd be wasting your breath. You can say he's on pace for an 18-goal, 41-assist, 59-point season — which would shatter all his previous career highs — but I'd answer that the 25-year-old's success this season is more a product of playing alongside point production machines Phil Kessel and Joffrey Lupul than anything of his own doing.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ Joffrey Lupul, from left, Tyler Bozak and Phil Kessel have looked great at times as the top line in Toronto, but a stud centre would take the Leafs to another level.

Ask yourself this: If Bozak were on a team that was a serious threat to win the Stanley Cup, which line would he be playing on? Certainly not the top line. Maybe the second line, but probably not there, either. On a team like Detroit, Pittsburgh, Vancouver or Philadelphia, odds are he'd be a third-liner at best.

Then there's first-year Leaf centre Tim Connolly. I don't think the 11-season veteran was a bad signing as some have suggested — and with nine assists and 15 points in 21 games, he hasn't been a bust of an unrestricted free agent signing. But again, where would Connolly be playing on a team that had a Ryan Getzlaf, or an Anze Kopitar? He wouldn't be challenging either of those stars for their positions on the top line, that's for sure.

"The league's GMs know how tough it is to acquire a true No. 1 centre and as such aren't willing to trade one unless there's a gun pointed squarely between their shoulderblades."

The Leafs are making the most of what they have, but to think Toronto's centremen are even close to equal with the NHL's best is wishful thinking in the extreme. The league's GMs know how tough it is to acquire a true No. 1 centre and as such aren't willing to trade one unless there's a gun pointed squarely between their shoulderblades.

That represents Burke's greatest challenge. He's shown he's won't wait on a top centre through the draft. And when you consider the top free agent this summer is Zach Parise — a winger — he's unlikely to find one on the open market. That leaves Burke little option but the trade route. And to land a No. 1 centre from any team, he'll have to deal a good portion of the youth, talent and depth he's built up thus far.

It's not ideal, but at this stage, it's the Leafs' only hope.

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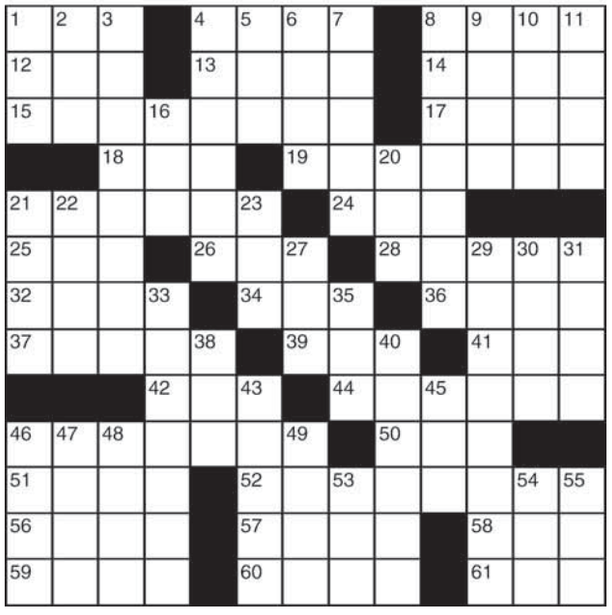
Crossword



Across

1 "Humbug!"
4 Actress Jessica
8 "Pow!"
12 Census statistic
13 Sense
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ball-carrier's target
17 Donate
18 Twosome
19 Beaten down
21 Coarse
24 Definite article
25 Blackbird
26 Gratuity
28 Ballroom dance
32 Baseball team
34 Popular pet
36 Praise highly
37 Trusty horse
39 Young 34-Across
41 Bar supply
42 Caustic solution
44 Recipient's reply
46 Modulate the voice
50 PussyCat's partner
51 Sandwich shop
52 Indispensable aid
56 Plumbing problem
57 Bedouin
58 Neither mate
59 Shaving gel brand
60 Head (Fr.)
61 Ram's fan?

Down

1 Suitcase
2 Earlier
3 Banner
4 Showing buoyancy
5 Mainlander's memento
6 Crooked
7 Watchful
8 "Who cares?"
9 In the thick of
10 Church section
11 Feds
16 Schlep
20 Resistance measure
21 Moving fleet
22 Condominium, e.g.
23 Disencumber
27 Burst
29 Suburban Philadelphia area
30 Dollar
31 Rhyming tributes
33 Thin and slippery
35 Eviscerate
38 Coloring agent
40 "Friends" role
43 Brilliance
45 Puncturing tool
46 Between jobs
47 Require
48 Old Glory
49 Grow weary
53 Adipose tissue
54 Promptly
55 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	A	D		F	A	N	S		H	A	M	S
A	V	A		A	B	I	T		O	G	R	E
N	E	T		C	A	L	A	B	O	O	S	E
G	R	A	N	T			G	O	T			
			A	I	D	A		P	E	R	S	E
B	U	R	N	O	O	S	E		R	E	E	D
I	R	E		N	O	T	R	E		D	A	G
A	G	A	R		M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	E	P	I	A		R	E	G	S			
			O	W	N			H	O	W	D	Y
F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E		R	O	E
C	O	V	E		A	R	I	A		A	L	L
C	H	A	R		H	E	R	D		P	E	P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	3		6		7		9	
		9				6		
	4		5		9		8	
	1	8				7	2	
7								9
	5	2				4	6	
	9		4		1		7	
		1				2		
	7		2		8		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, **ROSE YOUR WIFE**

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! **YOUR LOVE**

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past,(18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo **"FRED"**

Today 4°/-4° Variable
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 As the Sun changes signs, your awareness will deepen and many "problems" will cease to exist.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Tread carefully when dealing with other people's money: The potential for trouble is huge.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are now halfway through your solar year. It's the ideal time to take stock of how far you have come.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be more open than usual. Embrace it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pay.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins. Think big, act big and expect big.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes you are too sensitive to criticism.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. SALLY BROMPTON

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